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RICHARD H. SYLVESTER, - Editor.

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THE WAY TO PROSPERITY.

"There is a general fear on the part of capitalists and manufacturers," said a Cleveland bank president the other day, "that Congress will interfere with the tariff laws. For instance, a man is not going to buy \$20,000 worth of goods which may be worth only \$15,000 after Congress gets through tinkering with the tariff." It will strike the average mind that if a man buys \$20,000 worth of goods with the expectation of holding on to them until Congress gets through tinkering with the tariff, they will become too shop-worn to sell at any price. The truth of the matter is that a man who has \$20,000 to invest in goods can turn his money over at a profit a good many times before tariff legislation proceeds to such a length as to revolutionize the trade of the country.

So far as the capitalists and manufacturers are concerned, they are simply suffering for want of customers and markets and profitable fields of investment. The only legislation they have to fear is that which shall tend to cripple commercial enterprises and productive industries. It is not altogether a high tariff, and it is certainly not at all the agitation of revenue reform that has brought about this unsatisfactory condition of things. It is due to various causes, and to the want of a broad co-operative business policy on the part of the Government more than to anything else.

The Critic is of those who believe in liberal expenditures for public improvements, the reasonable subsidizing of great commercial and transportation interests, and aggressive competition with other powers in the extension of trade facilities.

We this country mountain-locked instead of ocean-bound, it might content itself with vegetating like a small in its shell. As it is ocean-bound instead of mountain-locked, it must utilize the sea and become what Nature designed it to be, the greatest maritime factor in the commerce of the world.

The prosperity of the people is no more to be assured by cutting down the duties on iron than it would be by doubling them up. The object is to find buyers for the iron—some place to put the manufactured product. If we manufacture more goods than our own people want, or raise more wheat than they consume, some way should be devised for supplying people who need to be fed and clothed and industrially enlightened.

Yet Congress will consume half a session in squabbling over barbed fence-wire as though the secret of our National prosperity was somehow involved in the amount of protection accorded to this or some other "infant industry." Class legislation under certain circumstances may be right and proper, but class legislation exclusively in the interest of prohibitory customs duties and none at all in the interest of free trade is an unmitigated evil, and will sooner or later break the backs of many people.

What the country wants is a policy of expansion instead of restriction. It wants a Congress that knows how to spend money with judicious liberality, rather than one all pinched up with primitive ideas of frugality.

The true economist is the man who builds himself up—not the man who starves himself down. It is the same with governments as with individuals.

Give the merchant with his twenty thousand dollars' worth of goods a natural market in which to dispose of them, instead of frustrating him with artificial props to prevent their declining on his hands.

REFORM AT A STANDSTILL.

The first of November, 1885, will be remembered as an inauspicious day in the history of civil-service reform so far as the Civil-Service Commission or the Civil-Service Act is concerned.

There are some unhappy reformers who say that the Civil-Service Commission, the eligible lists and all the machinery of the great work of administrative reform tumbled out of existence on that day.

There are serious doubts as to the authority of one commissioner to act in any way under the Civil Service law. There is nothing in the law to cover such an unforeseen and singular occurrence as the acceptance of the resignations of a majority of the board without the appointment of their successors. There is some question as to whether Commissioner Gregory's tenure of office keeps the commission alive. There is some doubt as to what would be the result of a peremptory demand on the commission to-day or to-morrow for the immediate certification of eligibles for any class of positions.

The paralyzed condition of the machinery of reform just now affords food for thought for the reformers and some very puzzling problems might arise from the present dilemma.

It is not at all probable that the President foresees for a moment the peculiar situation of affairs which might arise from even a temporary disorganization of the board; but it would be wise, if the cause of civil-service reform is not to be let go by default, to put the commission upon a fail-working basis as quickly as possible.

BARON TENNYSON's last effort is certainly somewhat of a poetical freak.

If he could pass any one of its truly remarkable sentences, he would silence as the leading grammarians of the age, but we do not think that even he could pick out and properly diagram any of the various parts of speech that go to make up the crazy quilt of poesy. We have people in this country who could without half trying, throw off better poetry than "Vestments." We have a host of our own who can do this. In winter there is a little bit chilly on Georgetown Heights, but our own Jives hits not the elements interfere with his poetic fire. Take him any day after dinner and he will in half an hour give you verse, heroic, humorous or pathetic that will knock Tom Thumb cold before he fairly puts the gloves on. And he will do this all alone. There will be no necessity for calling in the aid of Mrs. Eliza Wilcox, as he did in the winter room of the Galt House on that memorable occasion when the poem "Laugh and the World Laughs with You" was given to a delighted world.

THE President's Thanksgiving proclamation is the utterance of execrable sentiments clothed in good English. By issuing it at the time he did the President killed off one of the many rumors which have so preposterously dotted the campaign to the effect that the proclamation would not appear until after the result of the election. In New York and Virginia had been ascertained. By a deit reference to "chastening," as well as "sanctification," however, he has prepared his own as well as the public mind for a philosophical acceptance of the election results in Ohio and Virginia, whichever they go. While giving us a really acceptable proclamation, the President has also avoided the great tendency of Presidents and Governors to rush into precedents and fire off at an unsuspecting people an elaborate crop report.

LAST NIGHT'S AMUSEMENTS.

LARGE HOUSE AND GENERAL SATISFACTION AT ALL THE THEATRES.

Large House and General Satisfaction

Large House and General Satisfaction

LAST NIGHT'S AMUSEMENTS.

Large House and General Satisfaction

LAST NIGHT'S AMUSEMENTS.